

Pacific Motor Service, Monterey, California

Environmentally Friendly Auto Repair

Established in 1947, Pacific Motor Service has been an environmentally friendly shop since its inception. Having gone through the "Green Shop" inspection/qualification process, several areas did require attention, and in some cases, wholesale change. The shop decided to take the necessary steps to become more environmentally friendly.

Pacific Motor Service has been certified by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) as a Pollution Prevention Model Shop. This certification was created by the DTSC to reduce environmental pollution from commercial garages. Shops that want to be certified as a model shop must first undergo a shop assessment, then implement required changes to reduce or eliminate pollution and train employees in ways to prevent pollution, and finally, must score at least 100 points on the Model Shop Pollution Prevention Checklist.

Pacific Motor Service is one of only two auto repair shops in Monterey County that are certified green businesses through the Monterey Bay Green Business Program.



Certified green business Pacific Motor Service spent an estimated \$11,000 in lighting, toilet and faucet updates to help cut waste and conserve water resources.

"Our industry has had a poor reputation when it comes to environmental stewardship. We intend to change that perception."

-Kevin Donohoe
Pacific Motor Service CEO and President

Business Snapshot

A certified green auto repair shop offering inspections, repairs, and preventative maintenance

Actions to Cut Waste & Conserve Water

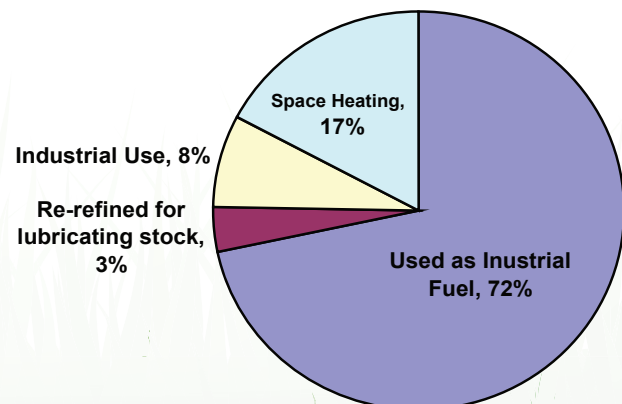
- Converted all lighting to low use florescent fixtures (cost: \$8,000)
- Converted water faucets and shower heads to low flow (cost: \$1,500)
- Changed toilets to low water use units (cost \$1,000)
- Exterior lighting on motion sensitive timers (cost: \$500)
- Landscape irrigation modification to conserve water (cistern) (cost: \$500)
- Sealed production floor space (prevents fluid absorption) (cost: \$22,000)
- Uses recycled paper products in office
- Minimizes fax use
- Lighting system is on timers (cost: \$1,000)
- Solar panel installation- scheduled for 2010 (estimated cost: \$45,000)

Estimated Yearly

- Cost Savings: TBD with solar installation
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions: XX tons of CO₂

Yearly U.S. Used Motor Oil Usage

Over 200 million of the 1.3 billion gallons of used oil generated are not collected, but dumped into sewers, streams, drains, landfills and backyards. The chart from the National Oil Recyclers Association shows that 72% of used oil can be used as industrial fuel (2007).



What Actions Did Pacific Motor Take to Update Cleaning Equipment?

They purchased aqueous parts cleaning systems for general purpose cleaning and brake system service. They found the use of the two machines has improved technician's efficiency, especially with the brake system cleaner. They stopped using the aerosol cleaners that have been an industry standard for decades, saving both the company money and customers. Their technicians realize the potential health benefits by using this equipment and are much happier as a result.

What Actions Did Pacific Motor Take to Control Hazardous Waste and Storm Water Runoff?

They enclosed the storage area for waste coolant, waste oil and scrap metal. They changed the procedure for spill containment, shop floor management and instituted the 4 step method for small spill clean up. CLEAN mop water is directed into the city sewer system. They changed their policy on battery core storage and return. They upgraded their new product dispensing heads to an updated style, covered shop floor drain openings, and posted "do not dump into storm drain" signs at the two parking lot storm drains.

What Actions Did Pacific Motor Take to Save Energy and Cut Waste?

Pacific Motor uses florescent lighting throughout the building. All office and shop support equipment is turned off at night and weekends. Low flow faucet heads and toilets were installed to reduce water use. When possible, they use clean mop water for outside landscape. They reduced and in some cases eliminated paper forms, memos and message pads, and use their computer network to facilitate these needs. They reuse "waste" paper for making internal document copies and special notice postings. They use recycled paper and office products as available. They upgraded some of their office equipment to energy efficient units including: printers, computer monitors, computer server, fax machine, and answering machine.

Pacific Motor Service has taken the necessary steps to become a certified green business and an environmentally friendly auto repair shop. Their next project involves installing a \$45,000 solar panel array in 2010 to save energy.

"When was the last time a regulatory agency [like DTSC] offered to come in to our business, evaluate it and help make it better without the fear of fines and penalties?"

-Kevin Donohoe
Pacific Motor Service CEO and President

Photo Credit: www.mpc.edu



Pacific Motor Service President Kevin Donohoe (shown above left) installed a sealed production floor space that prevents fluid absorption, including hazardous waste.



Photo Credit: Pacific Motor Service

Pacific Motor Service Building (above).

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